

*Britain and Ireland* 1: 271), is on the wing in June and July, I was anxious to carefully check this identification. At the first opportunity, I took it to the National Museum of Wales where another Glamorgan Moth Recording Group member, David Slade, is currently working on the Lepidoptera collection. Microscopic examination clearly confirmed it as *P. crepusculella*.

Consultation with Maitland Emmet, who maintains updated distribution maps for all the microlepidoptera, revealed that previous Welsh records of this species number only three. There is one confirmed, but undated, recent record from Breconshire, and records from both Monmouthshire and Anglesey without data, but certainly made during the 1970s. The present record is thus new to Glamorgan and only the fourth for Wales.

I am most grateful to Lt. Col. Maitland Emmet for his kind assistance in checking the current status of this moth in Wales.— MARTIN J. WHITE, 8 St. Nicholas Square, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 1UG.

#### ***Hemicoelus nitidus* (Herbst) (Col.: Anobiidae) in a second Suffolk locality**

*Hemicoelus nitidus* (Herbst) was added to the British list by my friend Howard Mendel on the basis of a single male beaten from Black Poplar *Populus nigra* on the Icklingham Plains in the Suffolk Breck (1982, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **118**: 253). Later, five specimens were reared from fallen branches of Field Maple *Acer campestre* collected in Windsor Great Park (Owen, J. 1990. *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 274). As far as I am aware, these are the only captures of the beetle in this country.

On 25 July 1998, I beat a single male from an old oak *Quercus* in Horringer Park near Bury St. Edmunds (grid reference TM 8162). This capture lends further support to Mendel's view (1989. *Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc.* **25**: 23-28), expressed when describing the unique nature of the Icklingham Plains area and its saproxylic beetles, that *Hemicoelus nitidus* would be recognised as an ancient woodland relict species.

I thank Keith Alexander (National Trust) for permission to record on the Ickworth Estate and Prof. J. Owen for helpful information on his capture at Windsor.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.

#### ***Biphyllus lunatus* (Fabr.) (Col.: Biphyllidae) and *Annomatus duodecimstriatus* (Müller, P.W.J.) (Col.: Bothrideridae) both feeding on sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* bark**

*Biphyllus lunatus* and *Annomatus duodecimstriatus* are well known to have rather specific habitat requirements. *Biphyllus* occurs almost exclusively in cramp balls or King Alfred's cakes, the round, hard, black fungus *Daldinia concentrica* which attacks ash logs and trunks. *Annomatus* is a blind beetle, completely lacking eyes, a feature suited to its secret, subterranean life, where it is recorded as feeding on decaying potatoes, buried wood and other decaying vegetable matter in the soil. I was, therefore, a little startled to find both of these beetles feeding on sycamore bark.

On 4.vi.1996 I rolled over some cut sycamore logs recently felled in Dacres Wood, a small community open space in Lewisham, south-east London (grid reference TQ 355725) and discovered several *Biphyllus* and an *Anommatus*. They were all gathered on the underside of the logs in the black sooty spores of the "sooty bark disease", a fungus *Cryptostroma corticale*, specific to sycamore and which had killed the trees. The logs were resting on and partly sunken into the earth, a habitat not altogether unlikely for *Anommatus*, and it is quite conceivable that the decaying sycamore was just as good as any other log in providing shelter or nourishment for the beetle. But the very many (at least 30) specimens of *Biphyllus* could, surely, only indicate that they were breeding there. Although completely different in form, at least *Cryptostroma* is similar to the normal *Biphyllus* food-fungus in that it is black and apparently unappetising as *Daldinia*. Hammond & Lawrence (1989. Appendix. Mycophagy in insects: a summary. In: Wilding, N. *et al.* (eds), *Insect-fungus interactions*. London: Academic Press. pp. 275-324), list Biphyllidae (*Biphyllus* and *Diplocoelus*) as generally being associated with *Daldinia*, *Numularia* and *Cryptostroma*, but I do not recall ever seeing a specific record of *Biphyllus* associated with sooty bark disease. On the other hand *Diplocoelus fagi* Guerin-Meneville is now one of the commonest beetles under sycamore bark in the London area and finding it under beech bark, nominally its true host, is something of a novelty. The number of beetles associated with sycamore, and more specifically with the sooty bark disease continues to grow (Jones, 1993. Sycamore: an underrated pabulum for insects and some beetles associated with. *Ent. Rec.* **105**: 1-10 & 1999; *Saprosites mendax* Blackburn (Scarabaeidae) under sycamore logs in Battersea Park, London. *Coleopterist* **8**: 120). One wonders what will be found feeding there next.

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### *Trinodes hirtus* (Fabr.) (Col.: Dermestidae) – a further Suffolk locality

Ten years ago I reported the re-discovery of this Red Data Book category 3 beetle at Shrubland Park, Coddendam (1990, *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 186), a locality in which the species continues to thrive, it last being noted there by myself and Martin Collier in June 1998. It is perhaps worth adding that, in addition to being found under Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa* bark in this locality – not Spanish Chestnut as stated in my original note – the larvae are also found under that of live Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

On 30 June 1999, I was pleasantly surprised to beat a single example from an old oak with cobwebbed cavities, growing on the edge of a grazed pasture at Freston, near Ipswich (OS grid reference TM 1639).

This is the third Suffolk locality for the beetle, Claude Morley having described how he found larvae in a huge *Polyporus sulphureus* (now *Laetiporus sulphureus*) bracket on a very old Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* (1942. *Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc.* **V** part 1: 36). Although he does not give the provenance of the fungus, some of the